

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A medical system comprising:

an installed computed tomography apparatus comprising a plurality of installation components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, and a control unit that operates the computed tomography apparatus;

a remote access interface connected to the control unit configured to allow the control unit to communicate with a remote location for remote servicing of the computed tomography apparatus;

a [[s]] power contrast agent injector, separate and removable from said computed tomography apparatus at said installation site and configured for temporary connection to said control unit for temporary operation in combination with said installed computed tomography apparatus, said power contrast agent injector comprising an injector interface; [[and]]

said control unit being configured to place said power contrast agent injector in communication with said remote access interface, via said injector interface, to allow remote servicing of said power contrast agent injector from said remote location through said control unit of said computed tomography apparatus via said remote access interface and said injector interface, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit; and

said control unit comprising security protection that isolates said power contrast agent injector from components of said installed computed

tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the power contrast agent injector.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] wherein said security protection comprises security hardware.

5. (Currently amended) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 [[3]] wherein said security protection comprises security software.

6. (Previously presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is built into said installed computed tomography apparatus as an original component thereof of said installation site.

7. (Previously presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is configured for retrofitting into said installed computed tomography apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) A method for remotely servicing an external device used in combination with an installed computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, and a control unit that operates the computed tomography apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing said control unit of said computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment allowing remote servicing of said installed computed tomography medical imaging apparatus;

removably connecting a power contrast agent injector to said control unit of said computed tomography apparatus at said installation site to thereby

also connecting ~~connect~~ said power contrast agent injector to said remote access equipment in said control unit; ~~[[and]]~~

remotely servicing said power contrast agent injector through said control unit and said remote access equipment of the installed computed tomography apparatus, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit; and

isolating said power contrast agent injector at least from components of said installed computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the power contrast agent injector.

9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said control unit of said installed computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment comprises building said remote access equipment into said control unit at a time of installation of said computed tomography apparatus at said installation site.

10. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said control unit of said installed computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment comprises retrofitting said control unit with said remote access equipment after installation of said computed tomography apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A method for servicing a power contrast agent injector used in combination with an installed computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, and a control unit that operates the installed computed tomography apparatus, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between said control unit of said installed computed tomography apparatus at said installation site and a service center remote from said installation site;

via said communication link, remotely servicing said installed computed tomography apparatus from said service center;

removably connecting said power contrast agent injector to said control unit of said installed computed tomography apparatus and thereby routing said communication link through said control unit to said power contrast agent injector; [[and]]

remotely servicing said power contrast agent injector from said service center through said communication link routed through said control unit, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit; and

isolating said power contrast agent injector at least from components of said installed computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the power contrast agent injector.

12. (Currently amended) A method for charging for servicing of a power contrast agent injector used in combination with an installed computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, and a control unit that operates the installed computed tomography apparatus, comprising the steps of:

installing said computed tomography apparatus, manufactured by a first manufacturer, at said installation site;

providing said control unit of said installed computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment allowing said control unit to communicate with a service center located remote from said installation site for remote servicing of said installed computed tomography apparatus;

removably connecting said power contrast agent injector, manufactured by a second manufacturer, to said control unit and thereby establishing communication, through said remote access equipment of said control unit, between said power contrast agent injector and said remote center, and thereby remotely servicing said power contrast agent injector through said control unit, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit; [[and]]

imposing a monetary charge from said first manufacturer to said second manufacturer dependent on said remote servicing of said power contrast agent injector; and

isolating said power contrast agent injector at least from components of said installed computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the power contrast agent injector.

13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)